(4) Housekeeping Cost Center includes the cost of staff and supplies needed to keep the facility clean.

(5) Patient Activities Cost Center includes the cost of staff, supplies, and related operating expenses needed to provide supplies, and related operating expenses needed to provide appropriate diversionary activities for patients.

(6) Social Services includes the cost of social workers and related operating expenses needed to provide necessary social services to patients.

(7) Ancillary Cost Center includes the cost of all therapy services covered by the Medicaid program and billable medical supplies. Providers must bill Medicare Part B for those ancillary services covered under the Medicare Part B program. Ancillary cost centers include: Radiology, Laboratory, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Oxygen Therapy, Intravenous Fluids, Billable Medical Supplies, Parenteral/Enternal Therapy and life sustaining equipment, such as oxygen concentrators, respirators, and ventilators and other specifically approved equipment. Effective October 1, 1996, air fluidized beds (e.g. Clinitron beds), low air loss mattresses or beds and alternating pressure mattresses will be recorded in the life sustaining equipment cost center. This program is applicable to lease or depreciation expense incurred on or after October 1, 1996 regardless of when the equipment was initially leased or acquired.

(A) Effective October 1, 1994, a separate ancillary cost center shall be established to include costs associated with medically related transportation for facility residents. Medically related transportation costs include the costs of vehicles leased or owned by the facility, payroll costs associated with transporting residents and payments to third parties for providing these services.

(8) Administrative and General Cost Center includes all costs needed to administer the facility including the staff costs for the administrator, assistants, billing and secretarial personnel, personnel director and pastoral expenses. It includes the costs of copy machines, dues and subscriptions, transportation, income taxes, legal and accounting fees, start-up, and a variety of other administrative costs as set forth in the Chart of Accounts. Interest expense other than that stemming from mortgages or loans to acquire physical plant items shall be reported here.

(9) Capital/Lease:

(A) This cost center includes all allowable costs related to the acquisition and/or use of the physical assets including building, fixed equipment and movable equipment, that are required to deliver patient care, except for automobiles and the special equipment, as specified in .0104(d)(1) or .0104(d)(7) of this plan. Except for automobiles and the special equipment noted in section .0104(d)(1) and .0104(d)(7), it includes the following items:

(i) lease expense for all physical assets,

(ii) depreciation of assets, utilizing the straight line method, per AHA guidelines

(iii) interest expense of asset related liabilities, (e.g., mortgage expense),

(B) In establishing the allowable cost for depreciation and for interest on capital indebtedness, with respect to an asset which has undergone a change of ownership, the valuation of the asset shall be the lesser of allowable acquisition cost less accumulated depreciation to the first owner of record on or after July 18, 1984 who has received Medicaid payments for said asset or the acquisition cost to the new owner. Payment of rent by the Medicaid enrolled provider to the lessor of the facility shall constitute Medicaid payments under this plan. Depreciation recapture will not be performed at sale. The method for establishing the allowable related capital indebtedness shall be as follows:

(i) The allowable asset value shall be divided by the actual acquisition cost.

(ii) The product computed in step 1 shall be multiplied times the value of any related capital indebtedness.

(iii) The result shall be the liability amount upon which interest may be recorded at the rate set forth in the debt instrument or such lower rate as the state may prove is reasonable.

(10) Operation of Plant and Maintenance/Non-Capital Cost Center includes all cost necessary to operate or maintain the functionality and appearance of the plant. These include: buildings and equipment, automobile depreciation and lease expense, property taxes and property insurance.

(11) Equipment expense. Equipment is defined as an item with a useful life of more than two years and a value greater than five thousand dollars ($5000.00).

(12) Training Expense. Training expense must be identified in the appropriate benefiting cost center.

(13) The costs of training nurse aides in an approved competency and evaluation program must be identified separately on the cost report and may include the cost of purchasing programs and equipment that have been approved by the State for training or testing. These costs will be cost settled during the desk or field audit and are not included in the direct care and indirect cost centers.

(14) Home Office Costs. Home office costs are generally charged to the Administrative and General Cost Centers. In some cases, certain personnel costs which are direct patient care oriented may be allocated to "direct" patient care cost centers if time records are maintained to document the performance of direct patient care services. No home office overhead may be so allocated. The basis of this allocation among facilities participating in the North Carolina Medicaid program may be: (A) specific time records of work performed at each facility, or (B) patient days in each facility to which the costs apply relative to the total patient days in all the facilities to which the costs apply.

(15) Management Fees. Management fees are charged to the Administrative and General Cost Center. However, a portion of a management fee may be allocated to a direct patient care cost center if time records are maintained to document the performance of direct patient care services. The amount so allocated may be equal only to the salary and fringe benefits of persons who are performing direct patient care services while employed by the management company. Adequate records to support these costs must be made available to staff of the Division of Medical Assistance. The basis of this allocation among facilities participating in the North Carolina Medicaid program may be: (A) specific time records of work performed at each facility, or (B) patient days in each facility to which the costs apply relative to the total patient days in all the facilities to which the costs apply.

(16) Related Organization Costs. It is the nursing facility's responsibility to demonstrate by convincing evidence to the satisfaction of the Division of Medical Assistance that the costs are reasonable. Reasonable costs of related organizations are to be identified in accordance with direct and indirect cost center categories as follows:

(A) Direct Cost:

(i) Compensation of direct care staff such as nursing personnel (aides, orderlies, nurses), food service workers, and other personnel who are accounted for in the direct cost center.

(ii) Supplies and services that would normally be accounted for in a direct cost center.

(iii) Capital, rental, maintenance, supplies/repairs and utility costs (gas, water, fuel, electricity) for facilities that are not typically a part of a nursing facility. These facilities might include such items as warehouses, vehicles for delivery and offices which are totally dedicated or clearly exceed the number, size, or complexity required for a normal nursing facility, its home office, or management company.

(iv) Compensation of all administrative staff who perform no duties which are related to the nursing facility or its home office and who are neither officers nor owners of the nursing facilities or its home office.

(B) Indirect Cost:

(i) Compensation of indirect staff such as housekeeping, laundry and linen, maintenance, and other personnel who would normally be accounted for in the indirect cost center.

(ii) Capital, rental, maintenance supplies/repairs, and utility costs which are normally or frequently a part of a nursing facility. This would include, for example, kitchen and laundry facilities.

(iii) Home office costs except for salary and fringe benefits of Personnel, Accounting and Data Processing staff which are allocated by approved methods are direct costs when the work performed is specific to the related organization that provides a direct care service or product to the provider.

(iv) Compensation of all administrative staff who perform any duties for the nursing facility or its home office.

(v) All compensation of all officers and owners of the nursing facility or its home office, or parent corporation.

The related organization must file a Medicaid Cost Statement (DMA-4083) identifying their costs, adjustments to costs, allocation of costs, equity capital, adjustments to equity capital, and allocations of equity capital along with the nursing facilities cost report. A home office, or parent company, will be recognized as a related organization. Auditable records to support these costs must be made available to staff of the Division of Medical Assistance and its designated contract auditors. Undocumented costs will be disallowed.

It is the nursing facility's responsibility to demonstrate by convincing evidence to the satisfaction of the Division of Medical Assistance that the criteria in the Provider Reimbursement Manual, Section 1010, has been met in order to be recognized as an exception to the related organization principle.

When a related organization is deemed an exception; (1) reasonable charges by the related organization to the nursing facility are recognized as allowable costs; (2) receivables/payables from/to the nursing facility and related organization deemed an exception are not adjusted from the nursing facility's balance sheet in computing equity capital.

(e) Auditing. All filed cost reports shall be desk audited in accordance with the provision of this plan. An Audit Adjustment Report shall be issued within one year of the date the cost report was filed or within one year of December 31 of the fiscal year to which the report applies, whichever is later. The state may elect to perform field audits on any filed cost reports within three years of the date of filing and issue a final Audit Adjustment Report on a time schedule that conforms to Federal law and regulation. If the state does not field audit a facility a final Audit Adjustment Report shall be issued based on the desk audited findings. The state may reopen and field audit any cost report after the final Audit Adjustment Report to comply with Federal law and regulation or to enforce laws and regulations prohibiting abuse of the Medicaid Program and particularly the provisions of this reimbursement plan.

(f) Penalties. Providers who fail to fully and accurately complete cost reports or who fail to furnish required documentation and disclosures for cost reports required under this Plan may be subject to penalties for non-compliance. Issues which are subject to penalties include, but are not limited to, material miscoding of cost from Indirect to Direct cost centers or from Non-Reimbursable to Reimbursable cost centers, inaccurate identification of census data or ancillary charges by payor type, and failure to disclose related parties including those deemed non-related by exception. Errors in a filed cost report which result in an adjustment greater than one percent (1%) of a provider's reimbursable total cost per the filed cost report reported in the cost report shall be subject to penalty. Penalty will be defined as the dollar value equal to five percent of the Medicaid percentage, as defined by occupancy, of the adjustment.

.0105 CASE-MIX INDEX CALCULATION

(a) The Resource Utilization Groups-III (RUG-III) Version 5.12b, 34 group, index maximizer model shall be used as the resident classification system to determine all case-mix indices, using data from the minimum data set (MDS) submitted by each facility to the Division of Facility Services. The following case-mix indices shall be the basis for calculating facility average case-mix indices to be used in determining the facility's direct care rate.

RUG Code	Case-Mix Index	RUG Code	Case-Mix Index	RUG Code	Case-Mix Index
SE3	2.08	CB2	1.13	PE2	0.97
SE2	1.70	CB1	1.01	PE1	0.96
SE1	1.45	CA2	1.02	PD2	0.91
RAD	1.68	CA1	0.92	PD1	0.83
RAC	1.41	IB2	0.89	PC2	.82
RAB	1.28	IB1	0.82	PC1	.80
RAA	1.06	IA2	0.74	PB2	.66
SSC	1.40	IA1	0.64	PB1	.61
SSB	1.29	BB2	0.86	PA2	.60
SSA	1.25	BB1	0.80	PA1	.57
CC2	1.39	BA2	0.72		
CC1	1.23	BA1	0.61		

(b) Each resident in the facility on the last day of each quarter with a completed and submitted assessment shall be assigned a RUG-III 34 group calculated on the resident's most current assessment available with an assessment reference date on or prior to the last day of each calendar quarter. This RUG-III group shall be translated to the appropriate case-mix index referenced in paragraph "a". If the most current assessment available with an assessment reference date on or prior to the last day of the calendar quarter is a delinquent MDS then the RUG-III code assigned shall be a BC1-delinquent and the lowest case-mix index in paragraph "a" will be applied. A delinquent MDS is defined as 121 days from the R2b date of the MDS assessment (completion date). From the individual resident case-mix index, two average case-mix indices for each Medicaid nursing facility shall be determined four times per year based on the last day of each calendar quarter.

(c) The facility-wide average case-mix index is the simple average, carried to four decimal places, of all resident case-mix indices. The Medicaid average case-mix index is the simple average, carried to four decimal places, of all indices for residents where Medicaid or Medicaid pending is known to be the per diem payor source on the last day of the calendar quarter.

.0106 RECONSIDERATION REVIEWS

(a) Providers may either accept agency reimbursement determinations or request a reconsideration review in accordance with the procedures set forth in 10A NCAC 22I and 22J.

(b) Indirect rates shall not be adjusted on reconsideration review.

(c) Direct rates may be adjusted for the following reasons:

(1) to accommodate any changes in the minimum standards or minimum levels of resources required in the provision of patient care that are mandated by state or federal laws or regulation;

(2) to correct any adjustments or revisions to ensure that the payment rate is calculated in accordance with Section .0102.

.0107 PAYMENT ASSURANCE

(a) The state will pay each provider of nursing care services, who furnishes the services in accordance with the requirements of the State Plan and the Participation agreement, the amount determined under the plan. In addition, Nursing Facilities must be enrolled in the Title XVIII Program. However, State-operated nursing facilities are not required to be enrolled in the Medicare program.

(b) The payment methods and standards set forth herein are designed to enlist the participation of any provider who operates a facility both economically and efficiently. Participation in the program shall be limited to providers of service who accept, as payment in full, the amounts paid in accordance with the State Plan. This reimbursement plan is effective upon approval of the State Plan for Medical Assistance.

(c) In all circumstances involving third party payment, Medicaid is the payor of last resort. No payment will be made for a Medicaid recipient who is also eligible for Medicare, Part A, for the first 20 days of care rendered to skilled nursing patients. Medicaid payments for coinsurance for such patients will be made for the subsequent 21st through the 100th day of care. The Division of Medical Assistance will pay an amount for each day of Medicare Part A inpatient coinsurance, the total of which will equal the facility's Medicaid per diem rate less any Medicare Part A payment, but no more than the Medicare coinsurance amount. In the case of ancillary services, providers are obligated to:

(1) maintain detailed records or charges for all patients;

(2) bill the appropriate Medicare Part B carrier for all services provided to Medicaid patients that may be covered under that program; and

(3) allocate and appropriate amount of ancillary costs, based on these charge records adjusted to reflect Medicare denials of coverage, to Medicare Part B in the annual cost report. For failure to comply with this requirement, the state may charge a penalty of up to 5 percent of a provider's indirect patient care rate for each day of care that is provided during the fiscal year in which the failure occurs. This penalty shall not be considered an allowable cost for cost reporting purposes.

(4) Properly bill Medicare or other third-party payors or have disallowance of any related cost claimed as Medicaid cost.

(d) The state may withhold payments to providers under the following circumstances:

(1) Upon determination of any sum due the Medicaid Program or upon instruction from a legally authorized agent of State or Federal Government, the state may withhold sums to meet the obligations identified.

(2) The state may arrange repayment schedules within the limits set forth in federal regulations in lieu of withholding funds.

(3) The state may charge reasonable interest on over-payments from the date that the overpayment occurred.

(4) The State may withhold up to twenty (20) percent per month of a provider's payment for failure to file a timely cost report and associated accounting records. The funds will be released to the provider after a cost report is acceptably filed. The provider will experience delayed payment while the check is routed to the State and split for the amount withheld.

.0108 REIMBURSEMENT METHODS FOR STATE-OPERATED FACILITIES

(a) A certified State-operated nursing facility is reimbursed for the reasonable costs that are necessary to efficiently meet the needs of its patients and to comply with federal and state laws and regulations. The costs are determined in accordance with Sections .0103 and .0104 except that annual cost reports are required for the fiscal year beginning on July 1 and ending on the following June 30 and must be submitted to the Division of Medical Assistance within 150 days after their fiscal year end. Payments will be suspended if reports are not filed. The Division of Medical Assistance may extend the deadline for filing the report, if in its view, good cause exists for the delay. The Medicare principles for the reimbursement of skilled nursing facilities will be utilized for the cost principles that are not specifically addressed in the State Plan.

(b) A per diem rate based on the provider's estimated annual cost divided by patient days will be used to make interim payments. A desk audit will be performed on each annual cost report to determine the amount of Medicaid reasonable cost and the amount of interim payments received by the provider.

Medical Assistance
State North Carolina

Payment for Services – Prospective Reimbursement Plan for Nursing Care Facilities

The State has in place a public process which complies with the requirements of Section 1902(a)(13)(A) of the Social Security Act.